

EXHIBIT No. 3062

(11)

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: OKOCHI, Denshichi

Having first duly sworn an oath as on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country I hereby depose as follows.

1. I am a former Vice-Admiral.

2. On 2 November 1944, I arrived in Manila and assumed my duties as Commander-in-Chief of the Southwestern Area Fleet and concurrently of the Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet.

However, by the latter part of December, 1944, we had lost the greater part of our naval force and our air power too had diminished considerably.

Consequently, after that, I took command of the remnants of the (naval) units, ^{whose but} in the Philippines Area: ever these units, were soon placed under the command of the Army as far as their land operations were concerned. Therefore, I merely directed and supervised personnel affairs and accounts.

3. In January, 1945, when U.S. forces commenced landing operations at Lingayen, I left Manila on the 5th and moved to Bagio. This was due to circumstances which arose from the necessity of taking command of over-all military operations. The naval forces left behind in Manila at that time were placed under the Command of General Yamashita as far as land operations were concerned, from zero hours, 6 January. After that I was only able to give moral encouragements indirectly, I for no longer possessed authority to take command over naval landing forces in land warfare.

4. From then on, all communication between us and the forces in Manila was made by wireless. As time elapsed the efficiency of the wireless communication greatly decreased, but still it was continued for a considerable time. The progress of the battles in Manila was therefore reported to me as well as to General Yamashita. With the information I then received, I was able to picture the desperate situation of the Japanese units in Manila when the U.S. forces besieged the city. From what I can recall today, I shall mention a few examples.

- (1) Enemy shelling and bombing were extremely intense and the whole area was completely devastated.
- (2) Guerrilla activities were intensified and even women and children harassed our forces, greatly hindering our operations.

(3) Ammunition ran short.

Thus, externally, our forces faced the furious gunfire of the U.S. forces, while internally they were harassed by guerrillas. It was evident that our units were fighting under great difficulty and disadvantage. Around 20 February, communication with Manila was completely cut, and I judged that the entire garrison in Manila had been killed.

5. Besides the progress of the battle in general as I have stated above, details as to the internal condition of our units were entirely unknown and the so-called "Manila atrocities" were something I did not even dream of.

About 13 April a message from Tokyo in the name of the Vice-Minister for the Navy was received, which said, "Spain has recently severed diplomatic relations with Japan on the ground that Japanese troops massacred Spanish nationals in the battle of Manila. Report on the matter is requested."

It was the first time that I felt some incident must have occurred.

However, since all personnel involved in the alleged incident had been killed, there was no way for us to conduct an investigation. I also enquired of the Army Headquarters under General Yamashita, but they too did not know anything about the incident and therefore I cabled a reply to Tokyo to that effect.

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As I have stated, the Manila Incident without either General Yamashita's or my knowledge.

I learned about the particulars of the incident for the first time after the surrender, from the indictment against General Yamashita.

On this 15th day of March, 1947
at Tokyo.

DEPONENT /s/ OKOCHI, Denshichi (seal)

I, SOMIYA, Shinji, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date. At Tokyo.

Witness: /s/ SOMIYA, Shinji (seal)

OATH

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

/s/ OKOCHI, Denshichi (seal)

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Translation Certificate

I, Charlie S. Terry of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ Charlie S. Terry

Tokyo, Japan

Date May 27, 1947.